



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 729 - State Board of Nursing– Sunset Extension - Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 729 - State Board of Nursing – Sunset Extension. SB 729 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Maryland Board of Nursing for three (3) years, until July 1, 2026.

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) licenses and regulates over 200,000 nurses. As such, the Board makes up about half of the roughly 400,000 total health occupation board licensees in Maryland. These nurses are the backbone of our state’s healthcare delivery system and having a Board that can function efficiently in all of its responsibilities, including administrative processes, is crucial to meeting the needs of Maryland’s nurses. The careful consideration of the Board’s purpose and operations, including ensuring that licensing is protecting public health and safety and that licensing is not overly broad or burdensome is an important role of a sunset evaluation and extension.¹

HB 611 (2023), which passed the House unanimously on February 16, 2023, has been referred to Senate Finance. This bill will grant the Secretary of Health authority over the Board’s infrastructure operations through June 30, 2025. Moreover, it will allow MDH to work with and support the Board to improve their administrative and infrastructure operations. During this time, MDH will evaluate and assess ongoing concerns related to Board operations, technology, and administrative functions. As such, MDH respectfully submits an amendment to shorten the sunset date for the Board from three (3) years to align with the sunset in HB 611, June 30, 2025.

If you have any questions please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D, M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/sunset-and-sunrise>

Amendment 1

On page 2, line 3 strike “July 1, 2026” and insert “June 30, 2025.”